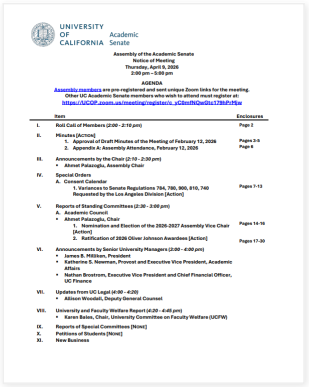
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Assembly



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

Assembly of the Academic Senate
Notice of Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2026
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

AGENDA

Assembly members are pre-registered and sent unique Zoom links for the meeting.
Other UC Academic Senate members who wish to attend must register at:
https://UCOP.zoom.us/meeting/register/u_tCQtrcHtQwGtz179hPJYEw

Item		Enclosures
I.	Roll Call of Members (2:00 – 2:10 pm)	Page 2
II.	Minutes [Action] 1. Approval of Draft Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2026 2. Appendix A: Assembly Attendance, February 12, 2026	Pages 3-5 Page 6
III.	Announcements by the Chair (2:10 – 2:30 pm) • Ahmet Palazoglu, Assembly Chair	
IV.	Special Orders A. Consent Calendar 1. Variances to Senate Regulations 784, 780, 900, 810, 740 Requested by the Los Angeles Division [Action]	Pages 7-13
V.	Reports of Standing Committees (2:30 – 3:00 pm) A. Academic Council • Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair 1. Nomination and Election of the 2026-2027 Assembly Vice Chair [Action] 2. Ratification of 2026 Oliver Johnson Awardees [Action]	Pages 14-16 Pages 17-30
VI.	Announcements by Senior University Managers (3:00 – 4:00 pm) • James B. Milliken, President • Katherine S. Newman, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs • Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UC Finance	
VII.	Updates from UC Legal (4:00 – 4:20) • Allison Woodall, Deputy General Counsel	
VIII.	University and Faculty Welfare Report (4:20 – 4:40 pm) • Karen Balos, Chair, University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW)	
IX.	Reports of Special Committees [None]	
X.	Petitions of Students [None]	
XI.	New Business	

The Assembly of the Academic Senate is meeting via Zoom on April 9th. Past meetings have featured issues of controversy placed on the agenda by petition. But the upcoming meeting seems to be more routine. See the agenda below. There is a request from UCLA's Senate for "variances" in grading that appear to be technical issues. Senate member may attend the Zoom meeting by registering through the link at the bottom of this post.

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Assembly of the Academic Senate: Notice of Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Agenda

I. Roll Call of Members

II. Minutes [ACTION]

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2026

2. Appendix A: Assembly Attendance, February 12, 2026

III. Announcements by the Chair

 Ahmet Palazoglu, Assembly Chair

IV. Special Orders

A. Consent Calendar

1. Variances to Senate Regulations 784, 780, 900, 810, 740 Requested by the Los Angeles Division [Action]

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Academic Council

 Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair

1. Nomination and Election of the 2026-2027 Assembly Vice Chair [Action]

2. Ratification of 2026 Oliver Johnson Awardees [Action]

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 50. When Will UCOP Stop Hurting UC Campuses? - 3/24/2026
- A Joint MESA-AAUP Report Shows the Corruption of Anti-Semitism Charges (Guest Post) - 3/23/2026
- Liner Note 49. University Voice Under a Necro-President - 3/9/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

Search This Blog

Search

UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

VI. Announcements by Senior University Managers

 James B. Milliken, President

 Katherine S. Newman, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

 Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UC Finance

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VII. Updates from UC Legal

 Allison Woodall, Deputy General Counsel

VIII. University and Faculty Welfare Report

 Karen Bales, Chair, University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW)

IX. Reports of Special Committees [NONE]

X. Petitions of Students [NONE]

XI. New Business

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Full agenda and attachments at
https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/assembly/assembly-agenda-4-9-26.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 305

From the Brown Daily Herald: *In a historic move, graduate fellows at Brown are seeking recognition as part of the Graduate Labor Organization, the union representing graduate student employees... Leaders from RIFT-AFT Local 6516, GLO's parent group, sent a message to University officials announcing the graduate fellows' intent to unionize... The move appears to be the first of its kind at a private U.S. institution of higher education, something union organizers argue is made possible by a novel Rhode Island law passed in August that explicitly codifies the right of graduate student employees — including fellows not working as teaching or research assistants — to unionize.*

Graduate fellows are students who receive stipend funding unrelated to whether or not they officially work as research or teaching assistants. The University's current contract with GLO includes only graduate student employees recognized by the National Labor Relations Board,

Topics

politics (2456) UC (2137) UC Regents (1906) health care (1437) State Budget (1280) governor (1130) diversity (1008) UC budget crisis (976) UC-Berkeley (921) pension (663) pensions (594) admissions (557) athletics (550) tuition (535) CSU (421) transportation (402) UC-Davis (378) online education (339) UCOP (316) uc retirement (309) traffic (305) ucrp (301) audio (291) UC enrollment (284) new hotel-conference center (282) UC-San Diego (267) enrollment (261) community colleges (249) LAO (236) UC-Irvine (185) fund raising (172) UC-Santa Barbara (163) UC-San Francisco (160) UC-Santa Cruz (159) controller (150) faculty center (144) UC-Riverside (142) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (122) UC-Merced (117) Master Plan (110) faculty pay (109) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (61) parking (61) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (35) copyright (35) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (22) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (15) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UCpolitics (4) UC Irvine (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2026 (358)

▼ April (28)

Assembly

Straws in the Wind - Part 305

The Road to UCLA Seems to Run Through UCLA's Geffe...

Don't Click!

Agostini's Every Ship on Its Own Bottom

Straws in the Wind - Part 304

More Subway Construction This Month

Closed Door (but a guess)

The Way We Live Now

Straws in the Wind - Part 303

Banned

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 138

More Conversations

Straws in the Wind - Part 302

The (First Quarter) Alternative Way

many of whom are teaching or research assistants. Fellows are not currently recognized at the federal level, according to Patrick Crowley, the president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO branch, which advocated for the bill's passage. "This is exactly why we did it: to make sure that workers who don't have the right to organize federally can organize in the state," Crowley said...

Full story at https://www.browndailyherald.com/article/2026/03/graduate-fellows-seek-to-unionize-in-unprecedented-move.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University

The Road to UCLA Seems to Run Through UCLA's Geffen Academy

SFGATE, a Bay Area news service, recently ran an article about high schools with high rates of acceptance to Berkeley, UCLA, and other UCs. Within that article comes this tidbit:

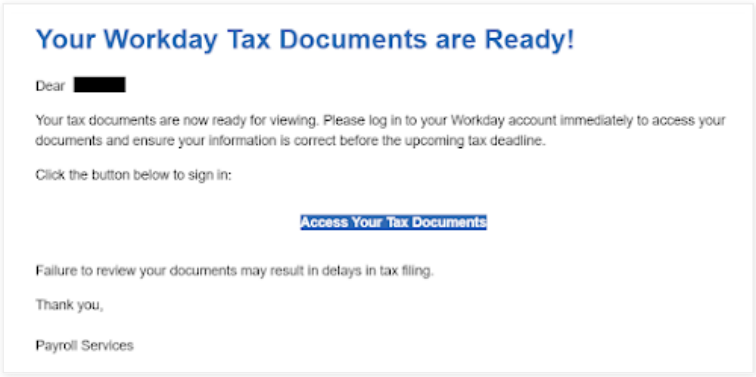
Geffen Academy at UCLA had the highest acceptance rate for UCLA with 26%, or 16 out of 61 applicants, gaining admission.

Source: https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/acceptances-uc-high-schools-22187590.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, uc-b, UCLA

Don't Click!


Your Workday Tax Documents are Ready!

Dear [redacted]

Your tax documents are now ready for viewing. Please log in to your Workday account immediately to access your documents and ensure your information is correct before the upcoming tax deadline.

Click the button below to sign in:

Access Your Tax Documents

Failure to review your documents may result in delays in tax filing.

Thank you,

Payroll Services

It may be tax time, but if you click on this fraudulent email which has been sent to some UCLA addresses, you will have a taxing experience.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

Monday, April 6, 2026

Getting In - Part 4
Straws in the Wind - Part 301
Wikipedia Solicitations - Part 2
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 137
Now that the dust has settled...
The Combo
Straws in the Wind - Part 300
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 136
Half & Half (and Half)
He ain't here... (for budget explanations) - Part ...
Bond - Part 2
Straws in the Wind - Part 299
No, you were not invited

► March (111)
► February (106)
► January (113)

► 2025 (1139)
► 2024 (832)
► 2023 (828)
► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)
► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Agostini's Every Ship on Its Own Bottom

As blog readers will know, former UCLA CFO Agostini left us his budget book before he was fired for saying Very Bad Things about the budget as it was under previous managers (some of whom are still around).* Life is a learning experience and I am sure he won't be saying Very Bad Things in his new role as CFO of Culver City.

Anyway, his budget book divided up the university into "units" and provided information on revenues, expenditures, and (therefore) surpluses or deficits. So, who were the bad guys projected to run big deficits this current academic/fiscal year?

As we have noted in prior postings, revenues are a mix of state funds allocated and outside funds obtained. For example, the Academic Senate's revenue is basically what it allocated. If it can't stay within that budget, it could mean bad management. But it could also mean that more money needed to be allocated for the Senate to do its job. Athletics, in contrast, is supposed to be self-financing (but isn't). External Affairs includes fundraising. But most of those funds that it raises go to other units. The University Consortium of Schools supports relations with K-12 to help schools prepare their students for admission to UCLA. What is the adequate level of revenue for that function?

Despite these considerations, Agostini seemed to be taking an "every-ship-on-its-own-bottom" approach to budgeting: You're a Good Guy if you stay within your revenues or even run a surplus. You're a Bad Guy if you run a deficit.

Below is a table of Bad Guys defined (by yours truly) as units which had projected deficits for 2025-26 (as seen as of Sept. 2025) of 5% of expenditures. (The 5% figure is arbitrary.) Note, of course, that the absolute level of expenditures varies very widely among units. I used the percentage approach on the rough idea that cutting a given percentage would produce about the same "pain" for a unit, regardless of size.

$millons	2025-26 Projected Deficit	% of Expenditures
Academic Senate	-0.45	-13.6
Broad Stem Cell Center	-4.36	-50.3
CA Nanosystems Institute	-1.95	-11.2
Campus & Community Safety	-7.83	-33.9
David Geffen School of Medicine	-196.87	-5.2
External Affairs	-15.19	-14.3
Graduate Education	-1.74	-10.9
Institute of American Cultures	-6.09	-32.7
Intercollegiate Athletics	-78.23	-37.3
L+S Humanities	-8.43	-6.4
Office of Advanced Research Computing	-14.83	-53.5
School of Education & Info Studies	-8.6	-9.8
School of Engineering	-39.71	-13.2
School of Public Health	-7.54	-6.1
University Consortium of Schools	-3.91	-6.6
UCLA Teaching and Learning Center	-0.75	-7
University Library	-6.65	-8.6
VC Research	-4.43	-6.3

While the med school barely makes the 5% criterion for the list, in absolute dollar terms, it far exceeds the others. Note that the med school's finances are intertwined in complicated ways with the hospitals and thus with patient revenues. Athletics is way over budget in percentage and absolute terms. Computing is way over in percentage terms. Is that the One IT thing gone wrong? Engineering, like medicine, is the home of significant research grants. Is the fact that

both the med school and engineering are on the list above a reflection of the current troubles with the federal government? These are all interesting questions. But since Agostini ain't here to explain, they may never be answered.

One more thing: We have noted that there is missing data in Agostini's budget book, in the prior UCLA financial reports which he criticized as misleading, and in more recent information provided to the Academic Senate's Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB). The missing information is **RESERVES**. If UCLA has been running a deficit (expenditures > revenues), it must have been getting the money to finance that deficit from somewhere. If any organization runs an operating deficit, it either has to borrow the money from somewhere (which public sector entities such as UCLA are not supposed to do), or run down previously accumulated reserves. ***So what are those reserves?***

If you look, for example, at the state's budget information, you will find estimates of revenues, expenditures, *and reserves*. How much of an emergency a deficit is depends on your ability to cover it. Movie buffs may recall **Citizen Kane**'s ability to cover the deficits of his money-losing newspaper:

Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9OUZNicTGU.

If you have lots of reserves relative to your deficit, you will have to make a correction but it can be done over a multiyear period to reduce the pain. If you don't have reserves, you have to fix the problem now.

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*Here is a listing of all our prior post-Agostini budget discussions on this blog:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/04/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/what-agostini-said-about.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations_28.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations_27.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations_0514550503.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then_0413053783.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then_13.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then.html.

We have preserved past UCLA budget documents so they won't vanish at:

https://archive.org/details/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026.

In particular, the Agostini budget book is at:

https://dn720904.ca.archive.org/0/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20Budget%20Book%20v%20FINAL%20Feb%202026.pdf.

===

**The CPB analysis of "discretionary spending" (whatever definition you put on that phrase), suggests there is a starting "balance" and an ending "balance" in the account at the beginning and end of the fiscal year. See page 6 of:

https://dn720904.ca.archive.org/0/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20Council%20on%20Planning%20and%20Budget%20%20Updated%20Report_

%20Analysis%20of%20UCLA%20Campus%20Structural%20Deficit%203-20-2026.pdf

The chart shows a negative balance at the beginning of the 2024-25 fiscal year. It shows a projected negative balance at the end of the current fiscal year. If there can be a negative balance in this account, there has to be a source of reserves somewhere in the system that covers the overdrawn amounts. *Where and what is it?*

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 304

From the NY Times: *The syllabus for SCLL 230-001, also known as "Men and Women," describes requirements different from the typical college course. Students in the class, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, must go on a date, plan their own weddings and organize a ball (a group project). Guest speakers last fall included Chloe Cole, an activist against gender treatment for minors; Dr. William B. Hurlbut, a former White House bioethics adviser who warned about the dangers of premarital sex; and several married couples, one with a baby who was passed around to students. The class reading list includes ideas from both the right and left, and the course is billed as a chance to openly debate issues affecting the genders in the age of a "masculinity crisis in the modern West." But some students who took the class said it tilted toward promoting traditional gender roles in dating, marriage and family life.*

The class is among the offerings at the U.N.C. School of Civic Life and Leadership, one of more than 40 academic programs that have sprung up across the country as part of a movement among conservatives to combat what they see as excessive leftism on college campuses. While the centers vary in curriculum, they emphasize Western thought, America's founders and civil discourse... But the centers have also drawn controversy and criticism, including from some initial supporters. Shiri Spitz Siddiqi, chief researcher for the nonprofit group Heterodox Academy, which released a report on the programs last year, said the centers had generated "a lot of distrust among mainstream academics."

At U.N.C., some conservative faculty members say the program has been hypocritical. The school, they argue, is mimicking the same problems that conservatives have said are endemic to left-leaning campuses, such as applying ideological litmus tests in hiring to keep out professors who don't fit a certain political profile...

Some students have been drawn to the school because of special financial offers. Students who pursue minors are eligible for the Libertas Scholarship, valued at $12,000 over four years. Tuition at U.N.C. is about $7,000 a year for in-state students and about $43,000 for out-of-state students. Before freshmen arrived on campus last fall, the school had offered another deal for them, even if they hadn't signed up for the minor. "Students: we offer a $3,000 scholarship, transformational programming (including a tech-free retreat in the NC mountains), and superb faculty leadership," the promotion read. To receive the money, students had to live in a residential "civil discourse" community — called Civ-Comm — connected to the school...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/30/us/politics/unc-civics-school-conservative-debate.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, U of North Carolina

More Subway Construction This Month

Westwood/UCLA Station Construction

Summary

Workers continue constructing the future Westwood/UCLA Station within UCLA Lot 36. Activities may require temporary lane closures to access this site. Work includes hauling, utility removal, material delivery, concrete pours, and backfilling excavations. Work will continue through April 30, 2026.

To reduce impacts to stakeholders, Metro contractors will implement intermittent traffic closures. Closures may impact westbound Wilshire Bl between Westwood Bl and Veteran Av, crosswalks on Wilshire Bl and Gayley Av, southbound right turn pockets at Gayley Av/Wilshire Bl (dual right turns impacted), and Westwood Bl/Wilshire Bl.

Date

- Through April 30, 2026

Work Hours

- Weekdays and Weekends
- 5 am to 4 pm
- 7:30 pm to 5 am

Hauling Daytime Hours

- 6:30 am to 5 pm

Noteworthy

- All work has received necessary permits and approvals.
- Access for pedestrians will be maintained outside of construction zones.
- Access for the fire department and emergency responders will be maintained.
- Parking restrictions will be implemented in the immediate area of the work zone.
- Construction is dynamic and schedules are subject to change.
- **24/7 Hotline:** 213-922-6934

Metro Access

Metro bus stops may be relocated, or lines could be impacted. For more information on changes to Metro service, please call 323.GoMetro, or visit metro.net/triplanner

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Construction at Wilshire Bl/Westwood Bl for Station Entrance

Summary

Decking installation at the southeast entrance of the Westwood/UCLA Station is scheduled to begin the weekend of April 10. Work is anticipated from Fridays at 9 pm through Mondays at 6 am. There may be additional periodic night closures.

This work will construct the final of the Westwood/UCLA Station entrances and will require lane reductions on eastbound Wilshire Bl, from west of Veteran Av to Westwood Bl. Additional lane reductions will be taken on Veteran Av just north and south of Wilshire Bl. Some Wilshire Bl sidewalks will be closed so please follow detour signage.

Work will include installation of K-Rail and fencing, deck installation, set up and breakdown of temporary traffic control, and hauling.

Date

- April 10 - April 17

Work Hours

- 9 pm Friday through 6 am Monday

Traffic Control

- Wilshire Bl will be closed between Galey Av/Midvale Av and Westwood Bl.
- Eastbound traffic on Wilshire Bl will be detoured north, onto Galey Av and south, onto Midvale Av.
- Traffic will remain open on westbound Wilshire Bl; please follow all detour signage.

Metro Access

- Metro bus stops may be relocated, or lines could be impacted. Please call 323.GoMetro for details.

Noteworthy

- All work has received necessary permits and approvals.
- Access for pedestrians will be maintained outside of the construction zone.
- Access for emergency responders will be maintained.
- Construction is a dynamic process and the schedule is subject to change.
- **24/7 Hotline:** 213-922-6934

Detour Routes:

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: traffic, transportation, UCLA

Closed Door (but a guess)

The Regents are having yet another meeting tomorrow about The Problem With The Feds.* You are not invited:

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

Because the membership of the Advisory Group on Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues ("Advisory Group") includes five members of the Regents' Governance Committee, there exists the potential for having present a quorum of a Regents' Committee when the advisory committee meets.

This notice of meeting is served in order to comply fully with pertinent open meeting laws. On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, there will be a Closed Session, Special Meeting of the Regents' Governance Committee concurrent with the Advisory Group to discuss Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues (Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code section 92032(b)(5)].)

The meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m. at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland and adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m.

(Advisory Group members: Regents Anguiano, Cohen, Hernandez, Matosantos, Milliken, Reilly, Robinson, Sarris, and Sures)

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/april26/meeting-notice_federal-april-7-2026.pdf.

===

***Yours truly is willing to guess - without evidence as the phrase goes nowadays - that this meeting will include discussion of the recent court decision described below.** From the LA Times:

Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV of the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts issued his order [last] Friday night in response to a lawsuit brought by California and 16 other Democratic-led states. The judge's preliminary injunction applies only to public colleges and universities in the states that sued while the case proceeds through litigation. For now, the ruling grants a reprieve to the University of California and California State University systems, which said in court filings that the data request was onerous, rushed, risked student privacy and required administrators to track down hard-to-find information for hundreds of thousands of students that individual campuses log differently. In addition to race and GPA information, the Trump administration has asked for standardized test scores, grant aid amounts and family income...

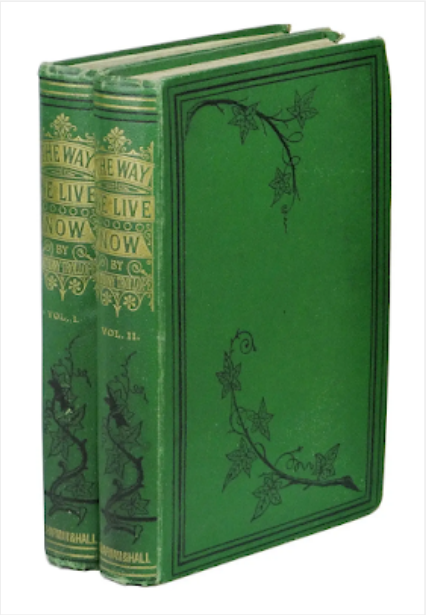
Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-04-03/california-lawsuit-uc-csu-race-gpa-data-trump-administration.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: CSU, diversity, politics, UC, UC Regents

Sunday, April 5, 2026

The Way We Live Now



From a recent email:

To: Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues:

On February 2, 2026, a BruinPost was issued regarding UC's California Workplace – Know Your Rights Notice and other resources intended to increase awareness of employee workplace and constitutional rights. The notice included guidance on employees' right to designate an emergency contact to be notified in the event they are arrested or detained at work.

UCPath has added a new emergency contact relationship type, "Contact if Detained/Arrested." This option allows employees to designate a contact to be notified if they are arrested or detained at work. This contact may be the same as, or different from, their primary emergency contact.

An email notice regarding this topic was distributed to the General UCPath Communications Distribution list (location HR, Benefits, and Payroll contacts) on March 30.

Employees are encouraged to review and update their emergency contact information in UCPath as needed. Those wishing to designate a contact to be notified in the event of arrest or detention at work must do so within the UCPath portal.

Managers and supervisors should be aware of this new practice and, in the event of an employee's detention or arrest at work, review UCPath and notify the appropriate designated contact.

Department heads should ensure that the UC's California Workplace – Know Your Rights Notice is posted in a highly visible location accessible to employees.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Shiroma (KShiroma@chr.ucla.edu) or Emily Tunteri (ETunteri@chr.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Christine Lovely

Vice Chancellor for Campus Human Resources and Chief People Officer

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 303

From Inside Higher Ed: *Kentucky public college and university boards would be able to lay off faculty—regardless of tenure—for low enrollment in a major or, more broadly, "misalignment of revenue and costs," under legislation that has almost passed the General Assembly. And these terminations could happen fast: The legislation only requires 30 days' notice to the professor so they can defend their job to board members. The House had passed the legislation in mid-February, but the Senate took no action on House Bill 490 until Tuesday of last week, when Republican leaders suddenly hit the gas on the bill. They repeatedly removed it from and sent it back to the Senate Education Committee, giving it the required official readings on the full Senate floor early to allow it to pass quickly whenever it escaped the committee.*

Then, on Thursday, the committee brought out the bill, heard brief comments for and against it, and passed it—all in roughly 15 minutes. During the meeting, two faculty public commenters opposed the bill, saying public higher ed isn't a business. Republican representative Gex Williams told them, "If it's not a business then maybe, respectfully, you could take some pay cuts or volunteer your time. It is a business." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty/tenure/2026/03/30/kentucky-senate-passes-bill-allowing-easier-faculty-layoffs.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics

Banned

This email message was sent on behalf of Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Darnell M. Hunt and Interim Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer Reem Hanna-Harwell: 4-2-2026

TO: Academic Senate Leadership, Deans, Vice Chancellors, Vice Provosts and University Librarian

Dear Colleagues,

As part of our broader efforts to address **UCLA's financial challenges**, and following discussions with the Executive Budget Action Group, we are strengthening oversight of expenditures on consultants and other external advisory engagements across campus. Consultants can play an important role in advancing key initiatives and providing specialized expertise. At the same time, the current fiscal environment requires us to prioritize expenditures even more strongly around teaching and research. Units are expected to leverage the use of internal expertise before engaging external consultants, recognizing that UCLA's faculty and staff bring significant knowledge and capabilities that often exceed those sought externally.

Approval Thresholds
To provide adequate controls for us, as we move forward, the following thresholds apply to the campus, effective immediately, for any new contracts and/or contract renewals for external consultants. Importantly, consultant costs a) under UCLA Health, b) on Contract & Grant Funds (as budgeted and approved within these funds) and c) on Gift funds (as allowable within the gift agreement) are exempt from this process but still need to follow regular campus policies & procedures and established practices.

We will define a consultancy agreement as a single engagement with a company (or an independent contractor) to perform a defined scope. Scopes that move past their original cost as part of a phase two will be aggregated with phase one costs to determine their approval thresholds. Likewise, any independent contractor extension for consultancy will be aggregated for approval threshold.

- **Under $25,000**: May proceed at the unit level with appropriate internal review and justification, as per usual practice. Segmentation of contracts to avoid approval thresholds is not permitted.
- **$25,000 – $75,000:** Requires written approval by applicable dean/vice chancellor and documentation of need, scope, and expected outcomes. This includes multi-year or cumulative engagements adding to $25,000-$75,000 (including amendments or extensions). Please attach these approvals to your requisition in BruinBuy Plus. If approvals are not attached the requisition will not be processed. Acceptable approvals are defined as an email or word document signed by applicable Dean/Vice Chancellor.
- **Over $75,000**: Requires additional central review and approval by the Office of the CFO, in coordination with the Chancellor's Office as appropriate. This includes multi-year or cumulative engagements exceeding $75,000 (including amendments or extensions). Please attach written approval by applicable dean/vice chancellor and documentation of need, scope, and expected outcomes to your requisition in BruinBuy Plus. Procurement will then route completed documentation to the CFO/Chancellor's Office for approval.

All after-the-fact requests for consulting or professional services will require additional central review and approvals from the CFO and potentially Chancellors [sic] Office.

All justifications must include
- A clear statement of total cost, need (business / research purpose), and expected outcomes.
- A specific explanation of why the work cannot be performed internally
- Defined scope, deliverables, timeline, and total cost

Review of Existing Engagements
Units are expected to review current consultant contracts and identify opportunities to:
- Reduce scope or cost
- Conclude work earlier where appropriate
- Transition capabilities in-house

We ask for your full partnership in exercising restraint and rigor in initiating and managing external consultant engagements. Thank you for your leadership and stewardship.

Darnell Hunt

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Reem Hanna-Harwell
Interim Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer

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Source: https://ia903207.us.archive.org/35/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20consultant%20ban%204-2-2026.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 138

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard Academic Workers-United Auto Workers launched a strike authorization vote Friday after 32 bargaining sessions with the University produced no first contract, marking a significant escalation in negotiations that began 18 months ago. The vote — which remains open until the union chooses to close it — requires a two-thirds majority to authorize the bargaining committee to call a strike. Of 37 proposed contract articles, only 13 have reached tentative agreement. Core disputes over academic freedom, time caps for non-tenure-track faculty, and protections for non-citizen workers remain unresolved after nearly 100 hours at the table.*

...The union's position has weakened structurally since the talks first began. Member appointments have expired during negotiations, and a concurrent hiring freeze has shrunk the unit considerably. The union said it expects further losses at the close of the current fiscal year. Job security for non-tenure-track faculty has been among the most contested issues between Harvard and the union. In February, the University offered to eliminate time-capped appointments for preceptors and lecturers on the condition that they take on one to two additional course sections annually. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences separately cut non-tenure-track spending by a quarter, saying it would absorb the reduction through fewer reappointments...

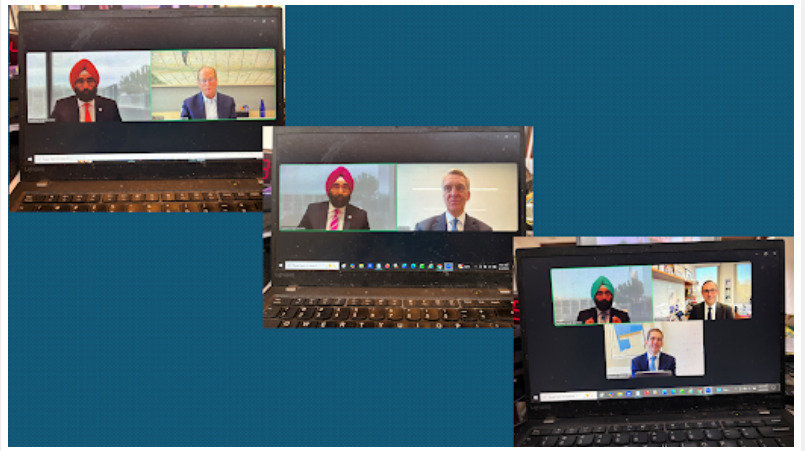
Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/3/30/haw-sav-vote/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Saturday, April 4, 2026

More Conversations



Top left: Bachhar with Larry Fink, Blackrock - Center: Bachhar with Bruce Flatt, Brookfield - Bottom right: Bachhar with Lionel Assent (upper right) and Kenneth Caplan (center), Blackstone

UC CFO Jagdeep Bachhar has had periodic conversations/interviews on Zoom with financial industry figures over the past year at irregular intervals.* Three were held recently. As in the past, we have recorded the audio since the Zooms occur at times that may be inconvenient for readers.

On March 31, there was a conversation with Larry Fink of Blackrock:

https://ia801506.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-03-04-2026/UC%20CFO%20Bachhar%203-31-2026%20Larry%20Fink-Blackrock.mp4

On April 1, there was a conversation with Bruce Flatt of Brookfield:

https://ia601506.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-03-04-2026/UC%20CFO%20Bachhar%20Conversation%204-1-2026%20Bruce%20Flatt.mp4

On April 2, there was a conversation with Lionel Assent and Kenneth Caplan of Blackstone (not to be confused with Blackrock):

https://ia801506.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-03-04-2026/UC%20CFO%20Bachhar%20Conversation%204-2-2026%20Assent%20Caplan%20of%20Blackstone.mp4

The general theme in all the conversations was that we are in it for the long run, so not to worry about such things as the Iran War. It will all work out. AI was depicted as the growth engine/opportunity of the moment but the investments being made are not so much directly in AI development but instead in such supportive industries such as electricity generators and data centers.

When it came to Blackstone, some faithful blog readers will recall the episode in which UC funds essentially were involved in a bailout of the Blackstone Real Estate Investment Trust (BREIT "bee reet") in exchange for a promise of above-market returns. At the time, the real estate market was distressed and BREIT was rationing payments to investors who wanted to pull their money out. Bachhar was anxious to note that eventually the UC investment made "billions." But, as we pointed out at the time, the issue was whether at the time the terms of the bailout were prudent for UC and - given the risks perceived at the time - who should make the decision. It appeared that the decision was entirely Bachhar's alone.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/06/june-conversation.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/05/the-conversation.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/another-forecast.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 302

From Inside Higher Ed: *Students at Florida's 12 public universities will no longer be able to fulfill their general education requirements by taking an introductory sociology course. ...The Florida Board of Governors unexpectedly voted to remove Introduction to Sociology from institutions' general education curriculum offerings... "Sociology as a discipline is now social and political advocacy dressed in the regalia of the academy," Ray Rodrigues, chancellor of the State University System, said at the board meeting at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. As a discipline, he added, sociology has been "ideologically captured."*

...In 2023, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 266, prohibiting general education courses from including topics that "distort significant historical events," teach "identity politics" or are "based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities." Then, in January 2024, the Board of Governors voted to remove sociology from the state's approved core course requirements. One year later, the board removed hundreds of additional courses, including many focused on race and gender, from general education offerings at all state universities...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/03/30/florida-deals-another-blow-sociology.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Florida State University, politics

The (First Quarter) Alternative Way

As blog readers will know, we routinely back up this blog on a quarterly basis in pdf format on the Internet Archive. Alas, some time back, we used to be able to do it as a book. But the service that provided the books is no more. However, we still have downloadable pdfs backed up. You can read the first quarter of 2026 at https://archive.org/details/jan-31-24-2026.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Friday, April 3, 2026

Getting In - Part 4

We have been posting about UC admissions including the various services promising to reveal the secrets of UC's decision process. The fact that the process at each campus is opaque undoubtedly costs the university public support. While you could argue that UC procedures are not more opaque than, say, Stanford's, UC is a public institution.

Below is a recent opinion piece expressing frustration with UC admissions.

The UC admissions process is secretive and uneven. Here's how to fix it

By Paul Gardiner, San Francisco Chronicle, March 29, 2026

University of California admissions decisions are out. Some 200,000 applicants and their families are finally seeing the results of a process whose rules are unwritten, whose scoring is secret, and whose outcomes can be difficult to explain.

The admissions process should be redesigned around the following four key principles.

First, transparency. The UCs should publish exactly the algorithm that they use to evaluate applicants and each applicant should see how their application was scored. Admissions offices tend to speak in reverential terms about using the current "comprehensive review" process to shape an incoming class, as if they were organizing an intimate dinner party, but the process is so arbitrary that it annually turns up stories of students with near-perfect records, typically Asian, who get rejected while apparently inferior candidates are accepted. In reality, UC Santa Barbara, a middle-tier UC, receives 110,000 applications, of which it accepts 42,000 and enrolls 5,000. There is no shaping going on. This is a numbers game.

There is an ongoing debate about what the goals of the admissions process should be.

The current merit-influenced system accounts for family background by factoring in a student's high school, which serves as a proxy for race and ethnicity, the consideration of which California voters have prohibited. Some would prefer a purely merit-based system. Others believe that, as a public university system, the UC should offer every minimally qualified student an equal shot — a lottery, in other words.

I don't want to take sides in that debate. I just want to argue that the process should be transparent. No sane person would come up with our current income tax system but it has been assembled over time by majority support and its transparency enables you to calculate your tax exactly. Every applicant should be able to calculate their admission score using whatever process the UCs define.

Second, UC admissions offices should have to demonstrate the value of every element of how applications are scored. The application should not require students to submit anything unless it has predictive value for student success. A student's academic record meets this standard. Portfolios required by Art and Music programs probably do, too. But do essays predict student success when many are now written by AI? Do lists of extracurriculars identify special talents or just result in shameless self-promotion?

Third, admissions offices must evaluate an applicant's academic records accurately. High school transcripts have become unreliable due to grade inflation. At UC San Diego, one in 12 freshmen has math skills below middle school level. One quarter of students in remedial math had entered the school with a 4.0 grade average in math, and some of them had completed calculus. Thousands of applicants were proficient in math but UCSD was unable to identify them or chose not to admit them.

Accurate assessment requires external calibration. The UCs could do this themselves: if a high school repeatedly sends students with 4.0 GPAs who can't do middle school math, admissions officers should calculate a credibility-adjusted GPA for future applicants from that school. As the saying goes: Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

Better calibration would come from AP exam scores. Ninety percent of UC-eligible students attend schools that offer AP courses. Seventy percent of students who take any AP exams take

at least one in 10th or 11th grade. The UCs already use AP scores for class placement after admission and they award so much college credit based on them that high scorers can graduate in three years instead of four. Students who score 5 on the AP exam are stronger than those who score 1, even if both got an A in the associated high school class. But Admissions considers only the class grade.

Fourth, UC admissions officials should be explicit about background and context adjustments for applicants. The UCs have a policy called "eligibility in the local context" that guarantees UC admission to eligible applicants who are in the top 9% of their graduating classes. It is clear who is eligible for this adjustment. But it is not clear how this factors into admissions decisions given that each campus makes its admissions decisions independently.

Each UC favors local applicants but they are not specific about where each UC draws its boundaries and how much of a boost local applicants receive. They adjust for the range of classes offered at a high school but don't say how they measure this nor what adjustment results.

Source: https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/uc-admission-application-university-22103492.php.

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PS: For the record, the "photo" above is AI-generated.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 301

From the Philadelphia Inquirer: *With continued uncertainty about federal research funding, the University of Pennsylvania's engineering school [last] Friday launched a $200 million fund to finance innovative projects at their earliest stages. The initial fund will support research and educational advances at the School of Engineering and Applied Science over the next five years, the school said.*

"The federal government is no longer a reliable partner," said Vijay Kumar, Penn's engineering school dean. "And what we'd like to do is to make sure that we can establish partnerships on which our faculty can rely on, going into the future. And that's through philanthropy."

It is the largest such venture ever launched by the engineering school and comes as President Donald Trump's administration continues to threaten research funding at the nation's universities. Penn earlier this year directed its schools and centers to cut 4% from certain expenses in the next fiscal year while keeping in place earlier reductions made in response to Trump administration's policies and ongoing threats to federal funding. The new fund is not designed to replace lost federal funding, Kumar said. Penn traditionally has received about $1 billion in federal research funding annually. But he said it can fund early-stage research and back research areas the Trump administration may not support, such as climate change and vaccinations...

Full story at https://www.inquirer.com/education/penn-engineering-research-fund-trump-20260328.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: fund raising, politics, U of Pennsylvania

Wikipedia Solicitations - Part 2

We have previously posted about solicitations from Wikipedia "editors" to write a nice page for you.* Such solicitations inevitably involve paying for the service. They may be outright scams. Or they may involve claims that seem to suggest that whatever they write is what will appear on Wikipedia.

If you get a solicitation such as the one reproduced at the bottom of this post, the best advice is not to respond and delete the message.

You can also report them: paid-en-wp@wikipedia.org

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/01/wikipedia-solicitations.html

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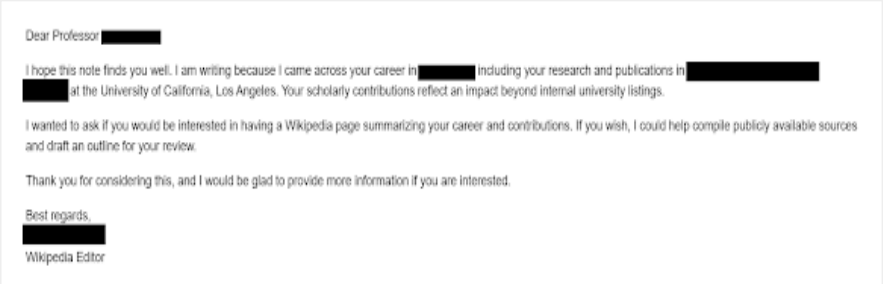
It's worth also repeating that Wikipedia is OK as a source for non-controversial information. Controversial political topics are another matter. Note also that if you ask an AI source about a controversial issue, it is likely to reproduce Wikipedia interpretations as if they are facts. Caution advised.



Dear Professor [redacted]

I hope this note finds you well. I am writing because I came across your career in [redacted] including your research and publications in [redacted] at the University of California, Los Angeles. Your scholarly contributions reflect an impact beyond internal university listings.

I wanted to ask if you would be interested in having a Wikipedia page summarizing your career and contributions. If you wish, I could help compile publicly available sources and draft an outline for your review.

Thank you for considering this, and I would be glad to provide more information if you are interested.

Best regards,
[redacted]
Wikipedia Editor

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 137

From the Harvard Crimson: *Dean of Undergraduate Education Amanda Claybaugh announced Monday that Harvard College will delay implementation of its controversial grading reform to fall 2027 and introduce a new "SAT+" grade, marking the most significant revisions yet to a proposal aimed at curbing grade inflation. The updated Subcommittee on Grading plan — which will be put to a Faculty of Arts and Sciences vote at its meeting next Tuesday — comes after months of debate among faculty, students, and administrators since the proposal was first introduced in February.*

The original version, centered on a strict cap on A grades, drew sharp backlash from students and cautious concern from faculty. If approved, the policy would be reviewed at the end of its third year. The revised proposal makes three major changes: it pushes back the implementation timeline by a year, modifies how the cap on A grades is calculated, and adds a new grade within the SAT/UNSAT system.

Under the new timeline, the policy would take effect in fall 2027 rather than the originally proposed 2026-27 academic year. The plan also calls for a committee, appointed by Harvard College Dean David J. Deming, to oversee the rollout. The proposal has become a flashpoint on campus since its release, with students and faculty raising concerns about the A-grade cap and the speed, and breadth, of the proposed reforms...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/3/31/college-grading-proposal-update/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Now that the dust has settled...

...We went looking through the archives. As blog readers will know, yours truly is not a fan of deleting historical figures when they turn out to be flawed. He's also not a fan of cult worship of historical figures even if they aren't flawed. So here from a blog post of March 29, 2019 is the now non-person [name omitted!] with Shirley Temple. To learn more about the background of this photo, go to:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2019/03/ucla-closed-today-cesar-chavez-day.html

and find out.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:01 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Thursday, April 2, 2026

The Combo

As we have noted in the past, after the big student-worker strike, UC adopted a proactive bargaining policy combining labor relations and public relations. Yet another example:

University of California Proposes Systemwide Pay Increases for Medical Residents

March 30, 2026

The University of California presented a comprehensive economic package for medical residents and fellows as part of ongoing negotiations with the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR-SEIU). The proposal reflects UC's commitment to fair, consistent compensation while supporting patient care and clinical training across its health system.

CIR-SEIU represents approximately 6,300 medical residents and fellows across the UC system who provide essential patient care while completing advanced medical training at UC hospitals and medical centers.

Medical residents are physicians in training who work in demanding clinical settings while continuing their education. UC residents remain among the highest-paid trainees at public universities nationwide and receive a strong overall compensation and benefits package.

"Medical residents are essential to both patient care and the future of medicine," said Missy Matella, Associate Vice President for Systemwide Employee and Labor Relations at the University of California. "This proposal reflects our commitment to supporting their education and training while providing competitive, predictable pay."

UC's proposal, presented during bargaining sessions held March 17–18, is designed to provide steady salary growth over a four-year period...

The proposal includes:

- *Annual salary increases of 3.5%*
- *Additional yearly step increases to provide consistent earnings growth*

Negotiations continue to move forward...

Full news release at https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-proposes-systemwide-pay-increases-medical-residents.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: strikes, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 300

From The Atlantic: *The events of the past three months seem almost perfectly engineered to spark campus unrest. In January, mass-deportation operations led to the brazen killing of U.S. citizens at the hands of masked immigration agents. In February, the Environmental Protection Agency declared that it would no longer regulate greenhouse-gas emissions. A few weeks later, the Trump administration joined forces with Israel to launch an attack on Iran without congressional approval. One might expect left-leaning college students to have practically started a revolution.*

But campuses across the country—places where, just two years ago, students occupied buildings and colonized the quad to protest Israel's war against Hamas—are strangely silent. These days, those same students mostly head to class. The extent of the change is jarring. David Sengthay, a Stanford senior and the head of the undergraduate-student senate, told me that protests typified the university's history, up to and including his first two years in Palo Alto. But by the time he returned as a junior, in fall 2024, something was different...

Sengthay said that he and other Stanford students had envisioned college as a "playground for free speech and democracy" before the greater responsibilities and pressures of adult life. They've since discovered that the rules of the game have changed.

Full story at https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/2026/03/campus-protests-trump-iran/686518/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Stanford

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 136

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard will attempt to issue $675 million in tax-exempt bonds — its third major debt sale in just over a year — according to a preliminary official statement released [last] Friday. The bond sale comes as Harvard faces a turbulent financial landscape and mounting financial pressure from the federal government. The University reported an operating loss of $113 million last year — its first budget deficit since the pandemic — a 1.7 percent operating shortfall on $6.7 billion in total revenue and a sharp reversal from the previous year's $45 million surplus.*

The preliminary statement acknowledges the Trump administration's decision to halt billions in research funding, as well as an increased endowment tax projected to cost the University roughly $200 million annually. "While the financial impact on the University resulting from the

totality of potential developments at the federal level cannot be quantified at this time, any such developments may, directly or indirectly, have a material adverse effect on the current and future financial profile and operating performance of the University," the statement reads...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/3/30/bond-sale-750m-2026/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics

Half & Half (and Half)

From an article in the LA Times describing a survey at CSU concerning the use and effect of AI:

...Faculty members are... split. The study says "56% report a positive effect on their teaching and research, and 52% report a negative effect. Faculty are the only group in the survey where a majority report both."

Still, more than half of the faculty, 55%, said they use AI to develop course materials...

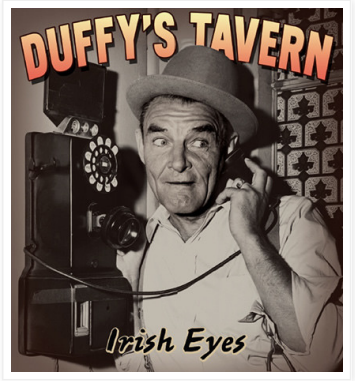
Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-04-01/csu-ai-survey-students-faculty.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:01 AM No comments:

Labels: CSU

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

He ain't here... (for budget explanations) - Part 5 - But we know where he is



As blog readers will know, we have been following UCLA's budget drama and the quick firing of CFO Agostini for saying that prior to his arrival, UCLA's financials were misleading due to mismanagement. As blog readers will further know, Agostini did leave a kind of legacy, a budget book with his version of the numbers. And finally, also knowledge of faithful blog readers, uncertain definitions of data and words such as "deficit" - along with absence of reserve data - make interpretation of budget information difficult.

But, although Agostini ain't here, we do know where he is. From the Daily Bruin:

UCLA's former chief financial officer, who abruptly departed the university in February after alleging financial mismanagement, will serve as Culver City's CFO... Agostini – who previously worked as a CFO in several federal government offices and was the associate vice chancellor of finance and budget at the University of North Carolina – said in the interview that he rarely saw financial mismanagement as extreme as UCLA's...

The city lauded Agostini in the press release for closing a $300 million budget gap at UCLA and delivered a balanced budget. The release did not mention UCLA's current budgetary deficit...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/03/31/former-ucla-cfo-stephen-agostini-to-serve-as-culver-citys-cfo.

Of course, it's not clear what the $300 million "gap" at UCLA refers to. And our interim CFO will be surprised (pleased? excited?) to know that UCLA budget is now "balanced."

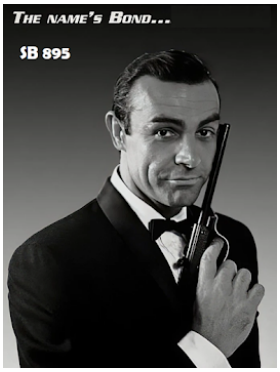
In any case, dear reader, fear not! We are not done with our analysis of the info Agostini left us. Stay tuned!

Home to two major film studios, Culver City once billed itself as the 'Heart of Screenland,' as seen in this undated photo. Courtesy of the Photo Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 1:06 PM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Bond - Part 2



Bill to place a $23 billion bond to fund scientific research in California on the November ballot clears Senate Health Committee

UC Office of the President

University of California-sponsored legislation, SB 895 by Senator Scott Wiener, passed the Senate Health Committee on a 9-2 vote... March 25. As UC faces one of the most significant disruptions to its research enterprise in its 158-year history, this bipartisan legislation would place a $23 billion bond to fund scientific research across California on the November 2026 ballot. If passed by voters, the measure would help preserve research central to protecting jobs, sustaining lifesaving medical advancements, supporting the health of California communities and maintaining the state's global leadership in innovation.

"In all my time at UC, I have never seen a more precarious situation for scientific research and greater challenges to our economy, our workforce development, and most importantly our public health," Kim Elaine Barrett, Ph.D., vice dean for Research at the UC Davis School of Medicine, said at yesterday's hearing. "Research at UC generates as much as $55.2 billion in economic activity every year — medical breakthroughs alone generate approximately $13 billion in economic activity across California. California has been a leader in scientific inquiry and should invest in its ability to protect jobs, health care, and the economic future of our state."

Prior to the hearing, over five dozen letters from researchers and faculty were submitted on behalf of the University and over 2,500 emails were sent to lawmakers in support of SB 895 and the critical research funding the bill would provide...

Full news release at https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/bill-place-23-billion-bond-fund-scientific-research-california-november-ballot-clears.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: legislature, politics, UC budget crisis

Straws in the Wind - Part 299

From the NY Times: *Boston University removed Pride flags that were displayed in campus buildings this month, angering professors who believe school leaders may be suppressing expression because they fear the Trump administration. University officials have suggested the displays could imply the school endorses them, violating its pledge to be evenhanded with its standards around speech. The university's decision is a new skirmish in academia about campus expression, and it comes after more schools across the country embraced so-called neutrality policies, curbing the views they express publicly. Universities have also imposed more stringent limits on protests in the years since demonstrations over the war in Gaza rocked campuses.*

But the debate in Boston involves flags, not encampments. According to the university's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, the school temporarily removed at least three Pride flags, including one belonging to the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. That one was taken down and folded neatly during spring break.

...The First Amendment's speech protections on their own do not apply at the private university, giving campus leaders more authority than some of their counterparts to determine what may be displayed on school property. The university said in a statement that it "upholds a content-neutral policy" around campus expression and that "outward-facing signage moves speech from an individual perspective to an institutional perspective." ...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/23/us/boston-university-pride-flags-free-speech.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, Boston University

No, you were not invited

The Regents had another 30-minute, closed-door meeting yesterday about you-know-what:

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

Because the membership of the Advisory Group on Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues ("Advisory Group") includes five members of the Regents' Governance Committee, there exists the potential for having present a quorum of a Regents' Committee when the advisory committee meets.

This notice of meeting is served in order to comply fully with pertinent open meeting laws.

On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, there will be a Closed Session, Special Meeting of the Regents' Governance Committee concurrent with the Advisory Group to discuss Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues (Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code section 92032(b)(5)].)

The meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m. at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland and adjourn at approximately 4:30 p.m.

(Advisory Group members: Regents Anguiano, Cohen, Hernandez, Matosantos, Milliken, Reilly, Robinson, Sarris, and Sures)

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/mar26/federal_meeting_march-31-2026.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UC Regents

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